

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed February 1, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 40-44, 78-79, and 81-83 are allowed, and claims 50-51, 62, and 70-71 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In that it is believed that every rejection has been overcome, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 46-49, 52-61, 63-66, 67-69, 72-75, and 77 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda (U.S. Pat. No. 6,053,599) in view of Steinfeld, et al. ("Steinfeld," U.S. Pat. No. 5,984,464). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As is indicated in the foregoing, each of independent claims 46, 56, 65, and 73 has been amended through this Response to recite "a plurality of fluid feed holes" that provide fluid to each of the subgroups of drop generators, or the action of feeding fluid to each of the subgroups using "a plurality of fluid feed holes". As was noted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, such features are not taught by the prior art references of record, either taken alone or in combination. See Office Action, page 5, discussion of claim 50. In view of the amendments, Applicant respectfully

submits that each of claims 46-49, 52-61, 63-66, 67-69, 72-75, and 77 is presently allowable.

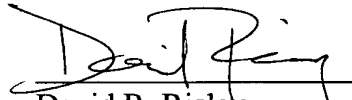
III. Canceled Claims

As identified above, claims 50, 69, and 71 have been canceled from the application through this Response without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

CONCLUSION

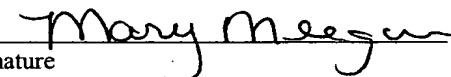
Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on

3-3-05


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